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THE CASE FOR POLYGONUM CUSPIDATUM SIEB. & ZUCC.

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A COARSE almost shrubby herb reaching a height of from one to three meters, rather commonly planted in North American gardens and perhaps more often escaped from cultivation, is this remarkable *Polygonum* from eastern Asia which Siebold and Zuccarini named for the characteristic cuspidate form of the leaf blade.¹

During recent studies in the *Polygoneae* of eastern Asia the writer has found certain practices in nomenclature which have led some authors to reject this and other well known names without apparent valid reason under either the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature or the American Code.

Dr. L. H. Bailey has referred to the bibliography accompanying Bot. Mag. t. 6503 as the basis for his use of "*Polygonum Sieboldii* De Vriese."² This bibliography appears to be a literal copy of that given by Meisner in DC. Prodr. xiv. 136, which is as follows: "P. Sieboldi hort. nonnull. De Vriese in Nederl. Kruidkund. Archief. 2, p. 254* et in Jaarb. d. Koninkl. Nederl. Maatschap. van Tuinb. te Leyden 1850, cum ic. Flora 1851, p. 523. Lindl., et Paxt. mag. 1, p. 137 cum fig. Paxt. Fl. Gard. 1852, 1, p. 137, fig. 90." The meaning of the * following the first reference is not clear. All of the references, however, are to the cultivated form of *P. cuspidatum* Sieb. & Zucc. The name *P. Sieboldii* occurs only in the second of the three references, a photograph of which has been seen through the kindness of Dr. Bailey, and there it is given only as a synonym in a bibliography which is in full as follows:

¹ Siebold & Zuccarini, Fl. Jap. Fam. Nat. Pt. 2, p. 84 [n. 731] (1846).

² Bailey, Cyclop. Amer. Hort. 1393, f. 1880 (1901).

POLYGONUM CUSPIDATUM S. ET Z.

Polygonum cuspidatum Sieb. & Zucc. Fl. Jap. fam. nat. in Act. Monoc. IV. Bd. 1844-1846. p. 208.

Polygonum pictum Sieb. Cat. des pl. du Japon, cf. Jaarboek der Koninkl. Nederl. Maatsch. tot Aanam. van den Tuinbouw. 1848. p. 44.

Polygonum Sieboldi Rwdt. in Mss.¹

The name *P. cuspidatum* Willd., because of which *P. cuspidatum* Sieb. & Zucc. is displaced by Small² and following him by Bailey, l. c., occurs, so far as is known to the writer, only as an herbarium name given by Sprengel (Syst. ii. 256) as a synonym for *P. acuminatum* Kunth. The use of the name *P. Sieboldi* hort. by Meisner as a synonym for *P. cuspidatum* Sieb. & Zucc. is preceded (p. 133) by the regular use of *P. Sieboldi* Meisn. for a plant of § *Echinocaulon*.

It has been the practice of a number of botanists to consider a name non-valid for later use if it has previously occurred in print, regardless of whether or not such occurrence was in a form which could be considered proper publication. This procedure may be illustrated by the three examples from the literature of the genus *Polygonum* which are cited below:

1. **Polygonum Zuccarinii** Small.

Polygonum cuspidatum Siebold & Zuccarini, Fl. Japon. Fam. Nat. 2: 84 (1846), not Willd.—Small, l. c.

2. **POLYGONUM Sièboldii**, De Vriese (*P. cuspidatum*, Sieb. & Zucc., not Willd. *P. Zuccarinii*, Small).—Bailey, l. c.

3. **Polygonum Portoricense** Bertero.

Polygonum densiflorum Meisner in Mart. Fl. Bras. 5: 13 (1855), not Blume; - - - .

Polygonum Portoricense Bertero; Meisn. in DC. Prodr. 14: 121 (1856), as synonym.—Small, op. cit. 46.

In the first two examples *P. cuspidatum* Sieb. & Zucc. is thrown down because of Willdenow's herbarium name given only in synonymy by Sprengel. In the third example *P. densiflorum* Meisn. is displaced by *P. portoricense*, an herbarium name given by Meisner as a synonym, because of a supposed *P. densiflorum* Blume. Weatherby has pointed out (RHODORA xxv. 20) that *P. densiflorum* Blume began with an error in Index Kewensis, apparently based on Blume's *P. corymbosum* var. *densiflorum* (Bijd. 534).

Neither the International Rules nor the American Code gives support to such procedures, for (1) Article 50 of the International

¹ De Vriese in Jaarb. Koninkl. Nederl. Maats. Aanmoed. Tuinb. 1849, p. 31 (1850).

² Small in Mem. Bot. Col. Coll. i. 158 t. 66 [Monogr. Polygon.] (1895).

Rules states that a name shall not be rejected "because of the existence of an earlier homonym which is universally considered as non-valid" (p. 48) and Article 37 states that "Citation in synonymy or incidental mention of a name is not effective publication." (p. 43). (2) Although Canon 16 of the American Code states that "A name is rejected when preoccupied (homonym). (a) A specific name is a homonym when it has been published for another species under the same generic name,"¹ it is nevertheless true that the names used in the cases just cited above cannot be considered as homonyms under Canon 16 because Canon 12 states that "A name is not published by its citation in synonymy or by incidental mention." (l. c. 171) and one of the examples given presents *Acrostichum Plumieri* Desv. herb. given as a synonym of *A. viscosum* Fée, stating that the former name is not "published" and does not invalidate *A. Plumieri* Fée. Neither *P. cuspidatum* Willd. nor *P. densiflorum* Blume have, then, been "published" according to either the International Rules or the American Code, so *P. cuspidatum* Sieb. & Zucc. and *P. densiflorum* Meisn. should not be displaced because of them.

GRAY HERBARIUM.

AN EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE *ONOCLEA SENSIBILIS*.—On the 11th of August, 1929, I found on Pine St., Peterborough, New Hampshire, an exceptionally large *Onoclea sensibilis* Linn. that seems worth recording. The plant was in a damp situation and growing out from an Arbor Vitae hedge, which doubtless in part caused the elongation of the fronds. A sterile frond, from the base of the stalk to the tip of the frond, measured $51\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length, the frond at the broadest part near the base measured $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches in width, and the leafy expansion from base to tip measured $19\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. Several other fronds on the same plant were of nearly or quite the same dimensions.

In Eaton's Ferns of North America it is recorded of the sensitive fern that the tallest fronds are often fully three feet in height. This height is much exceeded by the specimen here cited.—ROBERT TRACY JACKSON, Peterborough, New Hampshire.

[Dr. Jackson's *Onoclea* certainly far exceeds the conventionally published maximum measurements. The recording of his extremely large specimen will,

¹Bull. Torr. Bot. Club xxxiv. 174 (1907).